

Subject: Appeal Process for More at Four Expansion Slots

Date: October 8, 2007

From: Jamie Woodlief

To: More at Four Program Contacts, More at Four Administrators, More at Four Fiscal Contacts

On October 4th, the State Board of Education formally approved the appeal process for More at Four expansion slots that implements the new legislative special provision that reads:

SECTION 7.24. (f) If a county is unable to increase "More at Four" slots because of a documented lack of available resources necessary to provide the required local contribution for the additional slots allocated to the county for the 2007-2008 fiscal year, the contract agency for that county may appeal to the Office of School Readiness for an exception to the required local amount for those additional slots. The Office of School Readiness may grant an exception and allot funds to pay up to ninety percent (90%) of the full cost of the additional slots for that county if it finds that (i) there is in fact a documented lack of available resources in the county and (ii) granting the exception will not reduce access statewide to "More at Four" slots.

Under the approved appeal process, the State Board of Education has determined the counties that are eligible to submit an appeal to the Office of School Readiness. The criteria for determining these counties were: 1) economic distress; 2) underfunding of resources available for the match; and 3) demonstration of appropriate effort. [The list of counties that may submit an appeal is attached.](#)

Local contractors in these counties are encouraged to submit an appeal by October 26, 2007. [An overview of the appeal process](#) and the [required form is attached](#). The form asks for detailed information regarding: 1) the funding structure for existing More at Four slots in the county/region; 2) a needs assessment; 3) the capacity of the county/region to expand into high-quality settings; and 4) justification that local resources to support More at Four are significantly strained. The opportunity to appeal for a higher slot rate applies only to expansion slots that have not yet been requested.

The Office of School Readiness staff is eager to assist you in developing and submitting your appeal. Please contact your state office program consultant as soon as possible for assistance ([consultant list attached](#)).

Thank you,

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